

**INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 5 & 6, 2008  
COMFORT INN, BISMARCK**

**PRESENT:**

Dana Lone Bear  
Shawnda Ereth  
Tammy Gallup-Millner  
Stephen Olson  
Linda Jagielo  
Jill Staudinger  
Bob Rutten  
Holly Major  
Brenda Patzner  
Allison Dybing-Driessen  
Lori Wentz  
Scot Hoeper  
Judy Freund  
Deb Balsdon  
Kathy Barchinger  
Colette Perkins  
Roxane Romanick  
Missi Baranko

Chairperson Laura Larson called the meeting to order.

Introductions were made.

**TOPIC: MINUTES (9/07, 12/07, 1/08, 3/08)**

**ACTION/DISCUSSION:**

- A motion was made by Steve Olson and seconded by Jill Staudinger to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion carried.

**TOPIC: UPDATE ON THE ND EARLY HEARING DETECTION & INTERVENTION PROGRAM (EDHI) - ND HEAR NOW - Wendy Thomas**

**ACTION/DISCUSSION:**

- Wendy Thomas is presently the project manager for the EDHI project through North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities (NDCPD). She distributed a copy of her power point presentation to the members.

- Wendy reported that only 39% of the all the infants born in North Dakota were screened when they 1<sup>st</sup> started.
- They are up to 98% screening rate across the state.
- NDCPD submitted an application for a new CDC grant.
- This grant will assist the project towards linking necessary data systems together.
- The Department of Health is looking to submit an optional adjustment request to the governor's office for additional funding for the EDHA project. Sue Burns of the Health Dept. is looking at what other states have passed.
- The project has asked nurses to encourage families to bring their baby back for a screening if they are missed in the hospital.
- Wendy noted that travel can be an issue for some families.
- Deb stated that the Part C funds have purchased OAE's and tympanograms for each Infant Development program.
- Part C will be contracting with audiologists to read and interpret the results of the screening readings.
- Deb noted that the state office is working on a Memorandum of Agreement for follow-up on screenings for children living on the reservations.
- Discussion whether some of the Right Track providers could be trained in screenings and being given OAE's.

**TOPIC: REPORT ON IMPACT OF FEDERAL MEDICAID REGULATORY CHANGES**

**ACTION/DISCUSSION:**

- The federal Deficit reduction act has caused the federal Medicaid office to mandate a number of Medicaid changes.
- These changes have come out in public comment format and individuals and public entities have been able to respond.
- Some state ICC's have issued impact statements in regards to how the regulatory changes will affect their state Part C programs.
- North Dakota's state Medicaid Office was requested to submit information on targeted case management.

- This report indicated that from March 08 to June 09, North Dakota could anticipate a \$3.8M loss in funds from Medicaid funds and that this shortfall will need to come from some place else.
- The regulatory changes will not affect ND's Home and Community Based Waiver until March 2009 when it is then up for renewal.
- Deb reported that the regulatory changes indicate that a state can't use case management as a gatekeeper.
- Case management can develop services and a plan but they cannot authorize the service.
- This change impacts how Developmental Disabilities Case Management currently does business.
- Options are:
  - Keeping everything the same. Not do targeted case management and run as administrative. This has a dollar impact.
  - Have targeted case management develop program - we would need more case managers - different staff trained to do authorization of services.
  - Provide the authorization of services and DD Providers will provide case management services. This option is problematic in that some individuals do not have a DD provider.
- The state DD office is examining the fiscal and consumer impact of the regulatory changes.
- By Sept 08, DD has to have a Waiver renewal draft. The draft must be submitted for public comment in Oct./Nov. and then submitted to the Center for Medicaid and Medicare by January, 2009.
- Deb reminded the members that all service provision for Infants & Toddlers is under HCBS Waiver and the waiver renewal will address this program as well.
- Deb will obtain a letter from Maggie Anderson where she addressed the impact for all services in North Dakota for the ICC members.
- Recommendation that this topic continue to stay on the agenda.

**TOPIC: NDICC COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

**ACTION/DISCUSSION:**

- o Lori Went will be the parent representative on this committee.
- o There was no executive committee action during the quarter.

**EI SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE**

**ACTION/DISCUSSION:**

- o This Committee met in April, 2007 and May, 2008
- o There was discussion about the Natural Learning Opportunities model of service delivery, Early Intervention competencies, current monitoring activities between Technical Assistance and Consulting and the State Office, how Regional ICC's are functioning.
- o The committee entertained a recommendation from Region VI that a statewide survey be conducted on Part B eligibility for preschool as well as other collaborative issues.
- o By Sept will have Part C data on transition survey. Doing some queries on families to contact that have existed E.I services in the last 6 months and bring that information to this group.
- o A motion was made by Stephen Olson and seconded by Tammy Gallup-Millner that the recommendation from the Subcommittee should be brought to the joint meeting of the IDEA/ICC in Sept. Motion carried.

- Early Intervention Competencies Workgroup

**ACTION/DISCUSSION:**

- o This group met on May 1, May 27, and scheduled to meet again on June 20.
- o There was a Part C grant that went to a Higher Ed collaborative to put together core competencies.
- o Presenting the work group is looking at staff qualifications for service provision, staff eval, and consultation.

- o Deb had a conference call with Infant Development Coordinators and reviewed all of their staff's qualifications and experience.
- o The work group is working on defining the area of education specialists as the current standards through education do not apply consistently for ECSE and the types of educational staff that we need in Early Intervention.
- Natural Learning Opportunities

**ACTION/DISCUSSION:**

- o Have not met as a large group.
- o A steering committee is working on putting together a stakeholder's and work group meeting on June 26/27.
- o Staff from the National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center will be facilitating this meeting.
- o June 27 - stakeholders will meet to look at the issues.
- o Informational materials and discussion questions were sent to the stakeholders and Roxane reviewed those with the members.
- o The goal is to develop clearer messages about what Part C services look like in North Dakota.
- o Part C is contracting with a marketing agency to sit in and listen then tell us what would be the recommended communication strategies.

**TOPIC: 2008 PART C APPLICATION COMMENT REVIEW**

**ACTION/DISCUSSION:**

- The draft application was reviewed at the last meeting.
- The application was out for public comment on the Early Intervention website.
- No comments from the public comment period were received.
- Submitted to OSEP, but haven't heard anything back.
- These funds will not be used until July 1, 2009.
- After the Federal regulations are changes, North Dakota's policies will need to be updated.

**TOPIC: PART C BUDGET REPORT**

**ACTION/DISCUSSION:**

- Deb gave a report based on April spenddowns.
- Oct through April, 2008 - \$2.1M budget; \$670,000 spent, \$1.4 to go through the end of Sept.
- This year's budget will get hit twice with the statewide DD/EI Crossroads Training Conference.
- Right Track programs are billing consistently.
- Changes in ASSIST and Lotus Notes for Joint Prior Notice and other forms is around \$65,000.
- There was \$400,000 of unspent funds from the 2005 budget. The state office has asked OSEP to allow expenditures to continue to be billed against this amount.
- The state office has ordered OAE's, adaptive equipment, resource materials, computer equipment and replacing computers.
- Right Track contracts will go through Sept 30, 2008.
- Private Right Track providers will go through the RFP(Request for Proposal) process, to include Williston, Grand Forks, Jamestown, and Dickinson.
- Other contracts:
  - UND Parents as Co-Trainers - split with Part B. Technical Assistance Project goes through Sept 30, 2008. Deb will share the final report with the ICC members.
  - Minot State University Data Project contract will not be re-renewed. The Dept's research unit will be doing our data management.
- Deb is continuing to seek out a consultant to examine time studies completed by Infant Development (ID) staff and coordinators; rate in community for similar service, and recommend ratios and rates. This issue came up at the last interim Human Services committee.
- The council will re-visit the status of the Family to Family Network once more information is available.

**TOPIC: CHILDREN'S DISMISSAL STUDY**

**ACTION/DISCUSSION:**

- Linda J. distributed a handout on ND KIDS Count that talked about the Child Care Dismissal Study and Child Care Dismissals in North Dakota.
- Data was gathered in Sept 2007.
- A survey was sent to all licensed child care providers.
- The response rate was 38%.
- The survey required the providers to track data on building leavings, expulsions, suspensions of children with disabilities.
- Child care nurses are working with local pediatricians to come up with a health care plan - generic information/situations about concerns that might develop general autism tips. This may assist with the number of expulsions.
- Linda explained that it's difficult to make many changes in this area because the number of licensing visits and oversight is minimal.

**TOPIC: EARLY LEARNING GUIDELINES**

**ACTION/DISCUSSION:**

- Linda J. distributed a copy of the booklet "ND Early Learning Guidelines". These are the Early Learning Guidelines for 3 - 5 year olds.
- Linda reported that North Dakota is in the process of adopting the MN 0-3 Early Learning Guidelines instead of starting from scratch.
- This document will be reviewed in about 2 years.
- Linda reported that they are looking at bringing stakeholders together on the 3-5 ELG's the week of July 16<sup>th</sup>.

**TOPIC: UPDATE ON PENDING FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATION ACTION**

**ACTION/DISCUSSION:**

- Roxane presented the following information:

Families Are Watching....

Federal HR 3112 and S 1810 - Prenatally and Postnatally  
Diagnosed Conditions Act

The bill increases the amount of scientifically sound information and services to patients receiving a positive test diagnosis for Down syndrome or prenatally and postnally diagnosed conditions.

The bill would fund grants, contracts and cooperative agreements to collect, synthesize, and disseminate current scientific information.

The Genetic Information Act was passed and signed into law by the president.

HR 2370 and S 2743

These bills would establish tax-exempt financial security accounts for individuals with intellectual disabilities and jeopardize benefits. Funds in the account will pay for important expenses such as:

- Education
- Medical Care and dental care
- Transportation
- Moving
- Assistive Technology
- Housing and Transportation, after the age of 18
- Employment Coaching and Training

These accounts are not intended to meet the long-term support needs of individuals with intellectual disabilities. The legislation is built on the premise that persons with disabilities should be encouraged and supported in their efforts to save in order to create an independent and meaningful life just as other Americans strive to do.

No Child Left Behind - in Reauthorization.



Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act - federal legislation (funding pending) - difficulties with the lab, family support piece in implementation - grants may be available to address the issues in states.

Child Care Development Block Grant, Title Vi, DOE discretionary funding - No new news on the federal budget at this time.

North Dakota State Legislature - Infant Development Study continues in the Interim Human Services committee.

**TOPIC:        ADDITION TO THE CALENDAR**

**ACTION/DISCUSSION:**

- The council agreed to add January 29<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 - 4:00 (CST) to the calendar. This meeting will be used to assist the state office with preparation of the Annual Performance Review. This meeting will be held face to face; however polycom options will also be explored.

**TOPIC:        MEMBERSHIP REVIEW**

**ACTION/DISCUSSION:**

- Roxane reported that Sue Offutt and Holly Major's paperwork were in the governor's office awaiting approval.
- We are continuing to wait on approval of Carol Brakel, Developmental Disabilities Regional Program Administrator out of Grand Forks.
- The governor's office is waiting on paperwork from Arlene de la Paz and Dr. Todd Twogood.
- JoAnne Hoesel - paperwork needs to be re-submitted.
- August Re-appointments - Dana Lone Bear, Steve Olson, Allison Driessen, Flo Hilzendeger. These individuals have all stated an interest to be reappointed and the reappointments were approved.
- The council members discussed the need to have an active, participating member in the provider slot. Names that were generated included: Dr. Kumar from Medcenter One, Dr. Karen Brown from St. Alexius, Dr. Heidi Goldstein from St. Alexius, Kathy Lampman from

CCRR, Shonda Wild from CCRR, Dr. Klava from Grand Forks, Dr. Lundeen from Grand Forks, Pam Gallagher from Farog, Wanda Carlson from Fargo.

- The decision was made to request the lead agency to request a replacement for Dr. Twogood with the governor's office.

**TOPIC: ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**ACTION/DISCUSSION:**

- A survey of interest in the chair and vice chair positions was sent to members and Roxane received 11 responses and there was consideration for both Laura and Tammy.
- Tammy stated that she would prefer not to be the chair.
- A motion was made by Brenda Patzner and seconded by Jill Staudinger that Laura Larson be unanimously nominated for chair and Tammy Gallup-Millner to unanimously nominated for Vice Chair. Motion carried.

**TOPIC: REPORT ON FAMILY VOICES PARENT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE**

**ACTION/DISCUSSION:**

- Family Voices received an Early Childhood Systems Grant to assist in impacting parent leadership.
- They are putting together a parent leadership institute in August 15-17 in Edgeley, ND.
- There are 25 individuals attending.
- Julie and Katie Becket will be presenting.
- Other presenters include: Dave Pearce, Pam Gulleson.
- They hope to do this again in the Spring of 2009.

**TOPIC: PRESENTATION ON EARLY INTERVENTION FAMILY ALLIANCE - ROXANE ROMANICK, STATE FAMILY LIAISON**

**ACTION/DISCUSSION:**

- Roxane reported on this national board. She is currently a founding member of the board of directors.
- The EIFA board is comprised of parents who work in some professional capacity in Part C or have a

strong compassion for service delivery for services for children.

- Roxane went through a power point presentation describing the mission and intent of EIFA
- Roxane distributed an handout on "Parent Voice Strong for Infants and Toddlers IDEA Part C"
- Roxane explained that membership is free while your child is in Early Intervention and under the age 3.

**TOPIC: SEPT AGENDA ITEMS**

**ACTION/DISCUSSION:**

- Children's mental health - needs assessments and what they are seeing as concerns; advance planning for legislative work
- Part C Committee 1½ hr presentation related to ND Web Based Sp Ed Case Management System - it will be operational statewide at the Sept meeting and Bob Rutten can present.
- Regional Reports
- Early Intervention Competencies and Early Learning Competencies.
- Statewide survey on Part B Eligibility Issue
- Family to Family Network at UND - status of this project.
- Family Story to open the meeting.
- Implementation of Medically Fragile Waiver and Medicaid Buy-In.
- NDCPD Integrated Service Grant and received a grant to develop a rural health network on family support.
- Membership update